

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /165 W

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R 111645Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3912

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS

SUBJECTC EGYPTIAN RECEPTION FOR BAHY LADGHAM IRKS

BOURGUIBA

DEPT PASS CAIRO

1. FORMER PRIME MINISTER BAHY LADGHAM DURING STOPOVER IN CAIRO DEC 5 REPORTEDLY HAD MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND WAS RECEIVED AS GUEST OF EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. STORY FILED BY REUTERS CORRESPONDENT IN CAIRO REPORTEDLY SAID LADGHAM WAS ON SEMI-OFFICIAL (OFFICIEUX) MISSION FOR GOT. WHEN PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA INFORMED OF THIS PRESS REPORT, HE HAD GOT OFFICE ASK LOCAL REUTERS CORRESPONDENT TO ISSUED CLARIFICATION (MISE AU POINT) TO DENY THAT GOT HAS CONFERRED ANY RESPONSIBILITY WHATSOEVER ON LADGHAM. NEITHER REUTERS STORY NOR MISE AU POINT CARRIED IN LOCAL PRESS.

2. SOURCE WHO IS CLOSE TO LADGHAM REPORTS THAT LATTER WAS ON PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA AS GUEST OF KING FAISAL. CAIRO STOP WAS ONLY FOR REST AND TOURISM. SOURCE SAID LADGHAM HAD NOT INFORMED GOE OF HIS ARRIVAL AND DOES
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NOT KNOW HOW THEY WERE ALERTED TO HIS VISIT.

3. BOURGUIBA IN WEEKLY HISTORICAL CONFERENCE TO PRESS INSTITUTE DEC 7. AGAIN CRITICIZED LADGHAN HARSHLY FOR HAVING SIDED WITH SALAM BEN YOUSSEF BEFORE INDEPENDENCE AND OF NOT HAVING COURAGE TO STAND UP TO AHMED BEN SALAH. BOURGUIBA ALSO MENTIONED LADGHAM'S CAIRO VISIT WHICH HE SAID HAD CAUSE SOME SENSATION.

4. UNCONFIRMED REPORT INDICATED LADGHAM MAY NOW BE IN PARIS PERHAPS VISITING SOME WHO IS MEDICAL STUDENT THERE.

5. COMMENT: FACT THAT EGYPTIANS EXTENDED WARM WELCOME TO LADGHAM NO DOUBT UPSET BOURGUIBA AND MAY HAVE PROMPTED HIS RENEWED CRITICISM OF LATTER SINCE ENTIRE PASSAGE ABOUT LADGHAM AND BEN SALAH WAS OUT OF CHRONOLOGICAL CONTEXT OF PERIOD BOURGUIBA DEALT WITH IN THIS CONFERENCE. LADGHAM HAS LONG FEARED HE MIGHT BE PROSECUTED BY BOURGUIBA FOR HIS "RESPONSIBILITY" IN OUARDAINE AFFAIR OF 1969. LADGHAM HAS NO DOUBT DECIDED THIS IS TIME FOR LONG PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA.
SEELYE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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